

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed August 8, 2005, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1, 7, and 12 are amended. Claims 4-6 and 13 are cancelled. New claim 14 is added. Thus, claims 1-3, 7-12, and 14 are now pending and submitted for consideration.

**Objection to the Specification**

The specification was objected to for a minor informality in paragraph 33. The specification has been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 1 and 12 are objected to. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1-5, 9, and 10-13 are subject to prior art rejections. Claims 6-8 were identified as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6. Claims 2, 3, and 7-11 depend upon claim 1. Claims 4-6 and 13 have been cancelled. Therefore, it is believed that claims 1-3 and 7-12 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

**New Claim 14**

Claim 14 requires a cover of an airbag apparatus that includes a main cover body with a door portion that opens when an airbag inflates, a back plate that is mounted on a back surface of the main cover body, and connectors that extend away from the main cover body for connecting the cover to an airbag container, wherein the back plate and the connectors are separate elements, "wherein edge portions of the back plate are provided with back plate openings for projecting pieces of the main cover body to extend through the openings,

wherein the back plate openings and projecting pieces are arranged outside of the door portion of the main cover body.”

Yasuda et al. discloses an interior cover 3 with reinforcement ribs 12, and a reinforcement plate 33 that is joined to the backside of the interior cover 3. (See U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0067145 at paragraphs 0039-0043). However, the mounting section 35 of the reinforcement plate 33 is bent inwards from a hinge 34 so that the mounting section 35 follows the reinforcement ribs 12. (See U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0067145 at paragraph 0043 and Fig. 8). Therefore, Yasuda et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest that “edge portions of the back plate are provided with back plate openings for projecting pieces of the main cover body to extend through the openings” as called for in claim 14. Nor does Yasuda et al. disclose, teach, or suggest back plate openings and projecting pieces that “are arranged outside of the door portion of the main cover body” as recited in claim 14.

Strech discloses a support door 44 with a door portion 48 that is attached to a topper base 22. (See U.S. Patent No. 6,565,115 at col. 3, lines 51-60). The door 44 includes apertures 58 for receiving ribs 56 that project from the topper base 22. (See U.S. Patent No. 6,565,115 at col. 3, lines 51-60 and Figure 2). However, the apertures 58 are within the door portion 48 of the door 44. Therefore, Strech does not disclose, teach, or suggest back plate openings and projecting pieces that “are arranged outside of the door portion of the main cover body.” Furthermore, Strech does not cure the deficiencies of Yasuda et al. because a combination of Yasuda et al. and Strech would not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the limitations required by claim 14, nor would there be motivation to make such a combination.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

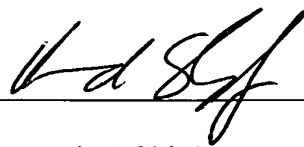
check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

10/7/05

By



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